

Selectboard members present: Peter Marsh, Tony Porter, Susan Jefferies (Chair)
Others present: Tom Estey, Chris Zeno, Celine Coon, Bill Coon

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Minutes: P. Marsh moved to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2016 Selectboard meeting with one minor correction. T. Porter seconded. Voted and approved.

Bills: T. Porter moved to instruct the Treasurer to pay the bills as presented. P. Marsh seconded. Voted and approved.

Road Foreman's Report: T. Estey reported that the road crew is preparing the foundation for the concrete recycling pad this week. The estimate for pouring the concrete is \$6,600. A washout on Shaker Hill Road has been repaired. The culvert for Ben Roberts Road should arrive in October, and the work is expected to be completed within 30 days.

Town Treasurer: Celine Coon reviewed several items with the Selectboard –

- **Tax Rate** – P. Marsh moved to set a municipal tax rate for FY16-17 of \$0.5478, which is \$0.5466 for the support of Starksboro's budget and \$0.0012 for local agreements. T. Porter seconded. Voted and approved. The local agreement tax rate is to raise education taxes for properties that the town has voted to reduce or eliminate property tax (disabled veterans excess exemption and volunteer fire department property).
- **Penalties for Late Homestead Exemption Filing** – C. Coon discussed the process of filing for homestead exemptions, noting that penalties are 3% for late filing and 8% for late late filing (as defined by Vermont law). T. Porter moved that Starksboro will be charging late filing penalties consistent with state statute. S. Jefferies seconded. Voted and approved.
- **Town Garage Financing** – Outstanding items for the town garage are pouring a concrete pad for recycling, moving the gate, putting in a berm in accordance with Vermont Land Trust agreement, and planting some trees to help shield the garage and salt shed from view.
- **Cell Phone Reception** – There was discussion about the fact that ATT cell phones do not get reception at the town office, and the possibility of installing a booster. P. Marsh suggested that ATT might provide one at no charge upon request.
- **Solar Electricity Allocations and Billing** – Starksboro has had a significant solar credit during the past few years, but it is being used up now that the Jerusalem Schoolhouse and the new Town Garage are part of the system. C. Coon noted that the old town garage is still using a significant amount of electricity. T. Porter will shut off the hot water, and look into other items that might be using electricity. C. Coon will revise the solar power allocation between town buildings to make the best use of solar credits.
- **Copier** – C. Coon asked that the Selectboard consider adding a copier that would provide more functionality, such as folding, stapling, and hole punching. This copier

could be used to print the Gazette in house. This would save more in printing expense than the copier would cost, and allow the Gazette to be published in a more timely manner. P. Marsh moved to approve a lease with SymQuest for \$168 per month plus copy charges. T. Porter seconded. Voted and approved.

- **Emergency Reserve Fund** – C. Coon asked for clarification about expenses from this fund. In some cases, the town has spent money on an emergency basis that was later reimbursed by FEMA. She asked whether the reimbursement should be returned to the Emergency Reserve Fund. The Selectboard agreed that any money reimbursed for expenses from the Emergency Reserve Fund should be returned to that fund. P. marsh suggested that the Selectboard prepare a policy regarding use of the emergency fund.

Visitor's Business:

- **Class 4 Roads** – Chris Zeno asked about the proposed Class 4 Road and Trail maintenance policy. The Selectboard discussed the proposed policy. There was discussion about possibly throwing up two Class 4 roads.

Mail: There was no mail that required attention.

Old Business:

- **Sale of Land at Gravel Pit** – S. Jefferies reviewed information from town attorney Jim Runcie regarding the terms of the sale and the warned article that was voted at town meeting.
- **Cemetery Maintenance** – T. Porter received a quote for tree maintenance at the Starksboro Village Cemetery. Removal of the large cedar tree would be \$500, and removal of the tree plus clearing the overgrown area in the last two rows of the cemetery would be \$2,000. These prices are a substantial discount from regular rates. There was discussion about the potential damage from trees falling on the headstones. P. Marsh moved to approve \$2,000 for tree clearing. T. Porter seconded. Voted and approved.

Agenda Items for August 16, 2016:

- Class 4 Roads and Trails Policy
- Appointments to Development Review Board

The next meeting will be August 16th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jefferies